

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

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INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0695

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AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

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FOR PGM/RC; VOA; CINCPAC FOR ICA ADVISOR

EO 11652: NA

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION -- ASEAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

(1) THE INDEPENDENT DAILY KOMPAS IN AN AUGUST 7 EDITORIAL SAW THE BENEFITS OF THE U.S. - ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING DEVELOPING IN THE LONG RUN OF THINGS, RATHER THAN IN ANY IMMEDIATE ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE ECONOMIC SPHERE.

(2) "WE WOULD BE DISAPPOINTED IF WE EXPECTED CONCRETE AND IMMEDIATE RESULTS FROM THE DIALOG," KOMPAS WROTE. "THERE ARE, FOR EXAMPLE, NO CONCRETE RESULTS IN THE FIELD OF TRADE. THE CONCRETE COMMITMENTS OF JAPAN, AND EVEN OF THE EEC, TO ASEAN, ARE MORE REAL.

(3) "HOWEVER, U.S. WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE AND TO BE CON-
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STRUCTIVE IN FORUMS DISCUSSING THE NEW ECONOMIC ORDER, CAN BE VALUED AS A COMMITMENT WHICH GIVES HOPE. AN EXAMPLE IS ITS (AMERICAN) READINESS TO SPEED UP THE FOLLOW-ON AGREEMENTS IN ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMON FUND AND INTEGRATED COMMODITY PROGRAMS.

(4) "FOR ASEAN, THE RESULTS OF THE DIALOG SHOULD BE DETERMINED

(BY THE SUCCESS OF ITS EFFORTS) TO ESTABLISH A FRAMEWORK THAT CAN BE USED IN PLANNING EFFECTIVE ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN ASEAN AND THE UNITED STATES..."

(5) THE NATIONALISTIC DAILY MERDEKA IN AN AUGUST 7 EDITORIAL FOCUSED ON PHILIPPINE FOREIGN MINISTER ROMULO'S CALL FOR THE UNITED STATES TO MAINTAIN A STRONG PRESENCE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA TO AVOID "DESTRUCTIVE RIVALRIES AMONG OTHER MAJOR POWERS."

(6) "THE DESIRE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AS EXPRESSED BY ROMULO IS NOT A PROBLEM," SAID MERDEKA. "VIEWED FROM SUCH ASPECTS AS CAPITAL INVESTMENT, PSYCHOLOGICAL INFLUENCE AND SECURITY RELATIONS, ASEAN HAS COME WITHIN THE SPHERE OF U.S. DOMINATION SINCE ITS INCEPTION. THE FACT THAT THAT DOMINATION COULD INVITE A RIVAL WHO SHOULD BE CUT OUT OF ASEAN'S FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PLANS, SEEMS TO CONCERN THOSE WHO HAVE HAD A DEEP RELATIONSHIP (DEPENDENCE) ON AMERICAN PROTECTION IN THEIR POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND MILITARY (ENDAVORS). THIS, HOWEVER, IS A CONTRADICTION OF THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF ASEAN WHICH HASSTRUGGLED FOR NEUTRALISM, INDEPENDENCE, AND PEACE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA..."

(7) THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE INDONESIA TIMES, TAKING EXCEPTION TO REMARKS BY SINGAPORE FOREIGN MINISTER RAJRATMAN TO THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB (REGARDING U.S.-SOVIET INTERESTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA) DECLARED IN AN AUGUST 7 EDITORIAL:

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(8) (BEGIN EXCERPT) " IF ASEAN CONSIDERS IT LEGITIMATE TO DESIRE A U.S. PRESENCE BECAUSE OF REASONS OF NON-COMMUNISM, THE COMMUNIST COUTRIES OF THIS REGION HAVE THE SAME RIGHT TO SEEK A SOVIET PRESENCE TO FORM THE COMMUNIST SIDE OF THE FENCE. SHOULD THIS HAPPEN, THERE WILL HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED A DIVISION (BETWEEN) COMMUNIST AND NON-COMMUNIST COUNTRIES IN THE REGION. THIS IS CONTRARY TO THE CONCEPT OF ASEAN.

(9) "ASEAN INVITES ALL INTERESTED COUNTRIES TO THIS REGION TO COOPERATE IN MAKING THIS HEMISPHERE A ZONE OF PEACE AND FREEDOM, AND NOT TO DIVIDE THEMSELVES INTO CONFRONTING GROUPS. ASEAN DOES NOT WANT AN ARMED PRESENCE OF ANY COUNTRY IN THIS REGION, INCLUDING SOVIETS AND THE AMERICANS." (END EXCERPT)

(10) THE SATURDAY ENGLISH AND INDONESIAN LANGUAGE VERSIONS OF THE ANTARA NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY FILE CARRIED A STORY CRITICAL OF THE PAUCITY OF CONFERENCE COVERAGE IN FRIDAY'S U.S. NEWSPAPERS. THE STORY WAS PUBLISHED MONDAY IN FOUR JAKARTA NEWSPAPERS, THE NATIONALISTIC DAILY MERDEKA, ITS ENGLISH-LANGUAGE SISTER PUBLICATION, THE OBSERVER, THE GOLKAR PARTY PAPER, SUARA KARYA, AND BERITA YUDHA, A DAILY WITH ARMED FORCES TIES.

(11) THE ARTICLE REPORTED THE NEW YORK TIMES CARRIED NINE GRAPHS UNDER A TWO-COLUMN HEAD, PAGE FOUR, THE WASHINGTON POST, A THIRTEEN-GRAPH, THREE-COLUMN STORY ON PAGE TWENTY; AND THE WALL STREET JOURNAL "DID NOT PUBLISH A SINGLE WORD."

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(12) SATURDAY'S EDITION OF THE ASEAN WALL STREET JOURNAL (1,000 COPIES SOLD IN INDONESIA, ACCORDING TO LOCAL CORRESPONDENT), HOWEVER, PLAYED THE ASEAN STORY ONE-COLUMN, PAGE ONE UPPER RIGHT, SAYING ASEAN LEADERS ARE CHALLENGING THE U.S. "TO PROVE THAT THE FREE MARKET STRATEGIES CAN WORK TO SOLVE SOUTHEAST ASIA'S DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS."

(13) ANTARA'S STORY SAID: "THE PRESENCE OF TEN ASEAN MINISTERS IN WASHINGTON AND THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS DISCUSSED DID NOT SEEM IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO DESERVE THE SPECIAL ATTENTION OF THE (AMERICAN) PRESS."

(14) THE NEWS AGENCY SATURDAY CARRIED THE ASEAN-U.S. JOINT PRESS STATEMENT, OBTAINED FROM USICA, IN FULL. THE LEAD ON ITS OWN WASHINGTON-DATELINED STORY READ: "THE U.S.-ASEAN DIALOG... ENDED FRIDAY WITH AN AGREEMENT TO ACCELERATE NEGOTIATIONS ON COMMODITY PROGRAMS IN RELATION TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMON FUND." ANTARA ALSO CARRIED FOR NATIONAL DISTRIBUTION THE

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USICA STORY, "BUSINESS LEADERS TOLD OF POTENTIAL FOR INVESTMENT IN ASEAN NATIONS," ALREADY PUBLISHED IN SEVERAL JAKARTA DAILIES.

(15) ALL MAJOR JAKARTA NEWSPAPERS GAVE PROMINENT PAGE-ONE PLAY TO THE CONFERENCE IN THEIR SATURDAY AND MONDAY EDITIONS, WITH THE ARMED FORCES DAILY ANGKATAN BERSENJATA, THE MOSLEM PARTY PAPER PELITA, AND MERDEKA, USING AFP AND AP LEADS.

(16) BERITA YUDHA AUGUST 7 HEADED ITS STORY, "U.S.-ASEAN DIALOG A SUCCESS" AND USED THE AFOREMENTIONED ANTARA LEAD ON THE COMMON FUND. THE OBSERVER UNDER A SIX-COLUMN HEAD, "U.S.-ASEAN RELATIONS HAVE (TAKEN) A BIG STEP IN CONSOLIDATION," QUOTED SUBSTANTIALLY FROM SECRETARY VANCE'S OPENING REMARKS.

(17) THE INDEPENDENT DAILY KOMPAS AUGUST 7, UNDER A PAGE-ONE TWO-COLUMN HEAD "ASEAN-U.S. AGREE TO SPEED UP NEGOTIATIONS ON AN INTEGRATED COMMODITY PROGRAM," USED MATERIAL FROM ANTARA, AFP, REUTER AND USICA, CARRYING THE LATTER'S AFOREMENTIONED STORY ON MEETING WITH U.S. BUSINESSMEN ALMOST IN TOTO.

(18) THE INDEPENDENT EVENING DAILY SINAR HARAPAN PLAYED AN AP STORY THREE COLUMNS, PAGE ONE SATURDAY UNDER THE HEAD "U.S. ASEAN DIALOG ENDS -- CARTER'S ADMINISTRATION MAINTAINS ITS SUPPORT FOR COMMON FUND TO STABLIZE PRICES." ENDUSINFO

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